



The Diocesan Safeguarding Oversight Group (DSOG) has oversight of, and scrutinises, safeguarding strategy and arrangements in the Diocese of Leicester. It meets quarterly and brings together people from the Diocese with representatives from external agencies, including Adult Services, the police, the probation service, and Quetzal, a local charity for survivors of childhood abuse. DSOG is chaired by Adrienne Plunkett, a social worker with a background in Children's Services, as a practitioner and manager, and experience of conducting Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews with Safeguarding Partnerships across the country.

At its meeting on 13 December 2023, DSOG had discussions about the following matters:

- Professor Alexis Jay's work on the Future of Safeguarding, which is developing proposals for how to establish a fully independent structure for safeguarding in the Church of England, and the implications this may have for our diocese and the Safeguarding Team.
- A Lessons Learned Review from the Diocese of Oxford into the case of Revd Michael Hall, and what learnings we can take from it in our own diocese, particularly around raising awareness of spiritual abuse in church settings and how we handle anonymous reports.
- The National Safeguarding Standards and Quality Assurance Framework and how we can best communicate these to church settings so they can be effectively rolled out across the diocese. DSOG has an additional meeting in January 2024 to consider implementation.
- The annual report from DSOG, which will be presented to Bishop's Council in January – the main points we hope will be taken away and how we can facilitate a constructive discussion around it.
- The plans for our survivor strategy and ways we can further promote the opportunity for survivors to join a focus group so this can be co-produced.
- DSOG's business plan, which is reviewed at every meeting,

DSOG also received reports from the Cathedral, Safeguarding Co-ordinators, the Executive subgroup, the Quality and Improvement subgroup and the Training subgroup. The subgroups' activity is informed by the DSOG business plan.

Members of the Quality and Improvement subgroup had undertaken a small audit of safeguarding risk assessments and church safety agreements. Their findings were positive: there was good multi-agency working, particularly with the police, thorough risk assessments and church safety agreements were robust. This is important in assuring the quality of safeguarding work in the diocese.